



GRACEMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL PUPIL QUESTIONNAIRE – 2016-18



WE WANT YOUR VIEWS ABOUT OUR SCHOOL, BECAUSE **WE CARE ABOUT
WHAT YOU THINK!**

Thank you for giving us your views and for answering the questions

Please see below for feedback from the Head Teacher

SUMMARY - 270 PUPILS

First of all I would like to thank all the pupils who took part in the daily dozen questionnaire. It was an absolute pleasure to meet you all and hear about your views of the school.

These questions are about the [whole school](#):

1	I feel happy, safe and cared for in school.	<p>95% strongly agreed or agreed. This is an increase of 3% from the last time we asked this question in 2014/15.</p> <p>I am delighted with this and believe our approach to becoming a Rights Respecting School has had a big impact on all of us. I will continue to ensure that this is a priority for the school as I strongly believe that pupils cannot learn to their fullest potential unless they feel safe in the school.</p> <p>I recognise how important strong pupil and teacher relationships are and how much this means to our pupil cohort as well as to our staff. This is something I always discuss with staff and we place this at the heart of all we do.</p> <p>For those pupils who disagreed, strongly disagreed or didn't know, I asked the Year Head or Guidance teacher to follow up. They have spoken to the pupils individually to ensure that appropriate support is put in place.</p>
2	Relationships with my teachers are very positive and are based on mutual respect	<p>89% strongly agreed or agreed. I feel this is another area of strength for the school and I am delighted to see that 230+ who were surveyed felt this was an area of strength.</p> <p>Mutual respect is one of our values and to see this level of response is an indication of our school living and believing in our values. We constantly reinforce with staff how vital it is to build positive and respectful relationships and it forms part of our commitment to inclusion.</p> <p>All the pupils know, or should know, how important it is to be respectful to their teachers and my expectation is that, as part of the Gracemount High School community, you understand and appreciate our school values.</p>
3	My teachers have the highest expectations of me and I am challenged to be the best I can be.	<p>93% strongly agreed or agreed. Since we last asked this question we have seen an increase of 8%.</p>

		<p>I am delighted with this level of response and will continue to ensure that High Expectations and challenge remain a priority within the classroom.</p> <p>It is important to know that your teacher has high expectations and that you feel challenged – you are worth it. Our work on quality assured learning and teaching is really supporting us all to develop our practice in ??? and is enabling the School Leadership Team (SLT) to develop a strong understanding of the quality of teaching and learning and identify areas of strength and areas of development. Staff will continually work together to ensure the highest quality learning and teaching experience for all pupils.</p>
4	The school's new behaviour policy is working well and promotes positive behaviour across the school	<p>65 % strongly agreed or agreed. Whilst I may have hoped for a slightly higher percentage, this is still a 12% improvement on 2014/15. 25 % of pupils indicated that they did not know and most of these responses came from the 2016/17 responses – just after we had launched the policy. The feedback in session 2017/18 (83 pupils have been seen this session) was much more positive with 72% strongly agreeing or agreeing.</p> <p>We have worked very hard to introduce a system that sets high expectations and is fair, transparent and easy to understand. I really feel that behaviour across the school is much better and pupils are much more responsive to the behaviour policy. What we need to do is to continue to improve on recognising positive behaviour and we will aim to make this more of a focus as we develop our plans for next session.</p>
5	Teachers use the school behaviour policy fairly and consistently and protect my learning	<p>72% strongly agreed or agreed. This is an increase of almost 20% since session 2014/15 and I am really pleased to see this. It is an area we have all worked very hard at improving.</p> <p>As teachers we recognise the importance of protecting learning and being fair in our use of the policy. It helps to support positive relationships across the school, something we really value.</p>
6	I feel confident about my future.	<p>63% strongly agreed or agreed. This is an area I have marked as amber and it is something we need to think more about. Feeling confident is directly related to your own health and wellbeing and I will take this issue back to staff, pupils and parents to consider how we can develop this area.</p>
7	My learning is well supported by the use of digital technologies.	<p>87% strongly agree or agree. This is a very positive area for the school. We invested heavily in our 1:1 policy and the use of iPads across the school is very strong.</p> <p>We are continuing to commit to this approach and aiming to develop the skills of our staff even further, so we can make the learning experiences more relevant and enjoyable for the 21st century learner (you).</p>
8	My teachers make learning enjoyable and interesting.	<p>75% strongly agreed or agreed with this. This answer has seen a 17% increase since 2014/15. This is very pleasing as we have focused a lot on developing the skills of the teacher in the classroom and have aimed to put in place a very strong recruitment process, heavily weighted to employing teachers who share the school's values and beliefs, and who are skilled in the classroom and want to improve.</p> <p>We are continuing to work hard on improving ourselves as teachers and this is one of the school's core priorities. It is important to</p>

		<p>recognise that not all lessons can be “fun”. All require hard work, do not mistake this for not being fun and interesting.</p> <p>I have asked staff, as part of our commitment to self-evaluation, to ensure that pupil feedback about lessons/series of lessons and topics is included as part of their own self-evaluation. At some point you should have been asked your views by your class teachers. I know many teachers are already very good at this and incorporate it into their day to day practice. What you think really matters to us.</p>
9	My teacher uses co-operative learning methods in the classroom to support my learning and the learning of others.	<p>63% strongly agreed or agreed. This is the first time we have asked this question and have done so because one of our whole school focuses has been on developing co-operative learning.</p> <p>There is significant evidence that, when done well, co-operative learning can have a significantly positive impact on pupils’ learning. Co-operative learning is much more than group work and it is focused on ensuring that all pupils are supported to work co-operatively for the benefit of all in the group. We continue to focus on this area so that experiences and learning in the classroom can be very positive.</p>
10	I get lots of opportunities to develop literacy and numeracy skills across the whole school and teachers talk to me regularly about these.	<p>78 % strongly agreed or agreed. We have seen a 19% improvement in this area and I am really pleased with this. It is an area that is so important as these are skills which are essential for all subject areas and are the responsibility of all teachers in the school.</p> <p>We will continue to focus on this, especially for S1-3 pupils.</p>
11	I feel I am making good progress in my learning and improving all the time	<p>89% strongly agreed or agreed. I am pleased with this figure, although I still feel we can improve here. I want every single pupil to be a successful learner.</p>
12	As a school, I feel we understand, value and celebrate diversity and challenge discrimination.	<p>92% strongly agreed or agreed. We have seen a 16% increase in this area since 2014/15 and I am pleased with the progress we have made. Our work on Rights Respecting Schools and our LGBT group are two fantastic examples of how we have made this a priority for Gracemount.</p> <p>This is a very important area and although 92% is high we can and will do more.</p>
13	The school does well in promoting a healthy lifestyle and values physical and emotional well-being.	<p>83% strongly agreed or agreed. I am happy with this figure and feel we work hard in this area. Within the curriculum we offer 2 hours of PE to the end of S4 and Home Economics options offer a lot. We also have the Football and Dance Academy and there are a number of extra-curricular opportunities available. Additionally, we try to encourage healthy options at meal times (are the options in the canteen still a concern?) If so, this is something we need to take forward with the pupil council). Our ban on fizzy juice remains – watch this space as the government are about to introduce tax on sugary drinks due to the links to obesity.</p> <p>Our work on understanding and supporting mental health continues and we must continue to focus on this area. We have invested in and developed some partnerships around this area e.g. the Health Opportunities Team and will look to build in more work around supporting people with and educating people about mental health.</p>
14	I have a say in improving the school and improving the way we learn.	<p>70% strongly agreed or agreed. We have seen a 15% increase in this area since we last asked this question and this is pleasing. The daily dozen was the first step in improving the pupil voice and our work</p>

		<p>with the pupil council was very positive when we asked some key questions about our curriculum and school day.</p> <p>More work is planned with the pupil council and we hope to enhance the role of the pupil council across the school as well as create more pupil leadership opportunities.</p> <p>I am about to start some focus groups on developing “New Horizons” for Gracemount. Watch this space!</p>
14	I have the opportunity to take part in lunchtime/after school activities, trips and clubs.	<p>85% strongly agreed or agreed. This area has gone down by 2% which I was a little surprised at. I feel this is still a real area of strength in the school and the new lunchtime club focus has just started. Hopefully we can continue to build on this as well as continue to provide opportunities for school trips at home and abroad.</p> <p>I am very grateful to the staff who give up a considerable amount of time to offer these opportunities. I include this as part of recruitment process to identify where new teachers can support extra-curricular opportunities.</p>
15	Pupils and staff are proud to be part of Gracemount High School.	<p>77% strongly agreed or agreed. We have seen an increase of 8% since we last asked this question. I am delighted that so many pupils feel proud to be part of the school as I believe we have a lot to be proud of. We can never take what we do for granted and it is important that we continue to work hard as a school community so we all have a school to be proud of.</p>

Please rate the school

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Weak	Unsatisfactory
31 / 267	111	106 /267	18/267		1/267
(12%)	(41%)	(40%)	(7%)		(0.3%)

93% of our pupils who were surveyed felt the school was good or better than good. This is a great starting point for us. As Head Teacher I have a responsibility to ensure we, as a staff, are aiming to deliver the very best standard of education possible. I also have a responsibility to insist on the highest standards from our pupils and I try to do this whilst ensuring that you know you are valued and cared for in your school.

Gracemount, in my view, is a wonderful school to work at and I am a very proud to be your Head Teacher. I am passionate about improving what we do because I know that if we do this then we directly impact on you and improve your chances of success in life. I want all our pupils and staff to share the same sense of pride and commitment to making OUR school the very best it can be.

Your views have been invaluable and thank you for taking the time to share them with me. I will continue to engage with you, so I can plan our improvement priorities and aim to make the school a positive and inspirational place to learn.

Mr Hunter



“Committed to care and excellence”



GRACEMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL PUPIL QUESTIONNAIRE – Aug 2016 - Jan 2018

WE WANT YOUR VIEWS ABOUT OUR SCHOOL, BECAUSE **WE CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU THINK!**

Please read each statement and tick the answer that best describes what you think about **our school**. We may use this information for statistical purposes and to improve the school, but we will keep your answers private.

Thank you for giving us your views and for answering the questions

		No. of Responses	Strongly Agree	Agree	%	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	%	Don't Know	%
1	I feel happy, safe and cared for in school.	264	78	173	95	5	1	2	7	3
2	Relationships with my teachers are very positive and are based on mutual respect.	271	67	173	89	8	1	3	18	8
3	My teachers have high expectations of me and I am challenged to be the best I can be.	275	94	161	93	5		2	15	5
4	The schools new behaviour policy is working well and promotes positive behaviour across the school.	279	45	135	65	28	2	10	69	25
5	Teachers use the school behaviour policy fairly and protect my learning.	277	47	153	72	35	5	15	36	13
6	I feel confident about my future.	276	60	115	63	38	6	16	57	21
7	My learning is well supported by the use of digital technologies (ICT).	270	107	129	87	21		8	13	5
8	My teachers make learning enjoyable and interesting.	270	28	175	75	44	2	17	21	8

9	My teacher uses co-operative learning methods in the classroom to support my learning and the learning of others.	281	33	145	63	35	1	13	67	21
10	I get lots of opportunities to develop literacy and numeracy skills across the whole school and teachers talk to me regularly about these.	265	47	159	78	46	1	18	12	4
11	I feel I am making good progress in my learning and improving all the time.	263	54	179	89	11	2	5	27	6
12	As a school I feel we understand, value and celebrate diversity and challenge discrimination.	262	97	145	92	11		4	9	4
13	The school does well in promoting a healthy lifestyle and values physical and emotional well-being.	252	73	136	83	17	2	8	24	9
14	I have a say in improving the school and improving the way we learn.	274	50	141	70	36	8	16	39	14
15	I have the opportunity to take part in the wider life of the school – such as lunchtime / afterschool activities, trips and clubs.	257	98	120	85	14	2	6	23	9
16	Pupils and staff are proud to be part of Gracemount High School.	265	84	119	77	9		3	53	20

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Weak	Unsatisfactory
31 / 267 (12%)	111 (41%)	106 /267 (40%)	18/267 (7%)		1/267 (0.3%)